

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, after the title of the application, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of International Application No.
PCT/JP2004/004116, filed March 24, 2004.--

Paragraph starting at line 5 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

According to the first feature of the present invention, there is provided a position-detecting mechanism to detect ~~the position~~ a side of a subject of measurement. The position-detecting mechanism comprises (i) a light-emitting means to emit a beam of visible light to the subject of measurement and (ii) a regulating means to regulate the beam so that its cross section will be in a certain shape at the place of the subject of measurement. The cross-sectional area of the beam at the place of the subject of measurement is such that the change of the shape of the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement is visible when the relative positions of the regulating means and the side of the subject of measurement have changed.

Paragraph starting at line 28 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

The advantages offered by the first feature of the present invention are as follows. Because the light-emitting means emits a beam of visible light, the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement is visible to the operator. Accordingly, the operator can judge the position of the subject of measurement by the position of the spot on the subject of measurement. Besides, because the beam is regulated so that its cross section will be in a certain shape at the place of the subject of measurement and the cross-sectional area of the beam at the place of the subject of measurement is such that the change of the shape of the

spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement is visible, the operator can judge the position of the subject of measurement just by checking the shape of the spot lit up by the beam on the subject of measurement. Thus, the operator can easily judge the position of a subject of measurement by using his eyes alone without using a scale. The operator can easily, safely judge the position of a subject of measurement even while it is running on its production line. If the position-detecting mechanism is incorporated into a position-detecting sensor, the operator can judge the deviation of a subject of measurement from the reference line of the position-detecting sensor by using his eyes alone. Therefore, the position-detecting sensor can be calibrated easily, accurately.